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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1915.

Pressure on Greece

GREAT BRITAIN and France are not going to make the same mistake in the case of Greece they did in the case of Bulgaria. By treaty with Serbia, Greece is under obligation to come to the relief of that country when attacked. Greece has repudiated this solemn compact, but the allies are insisting she shall at least permit the retirement of Serbian troops into Greek territory and their unimpeded movements thereafter. That is a measure of necessary prudence, for the defeated Serbian armies are not far now from the Greek frontier. With Venizelos and his supporters sulking in their tents and refusing to support the government, there is reason to believe that King Constantine will yield.

Turkey and Greece will be very near and dear to us next Thursday.

Only a Mechanical Difficulty

DANGER of complication, which is the only serious objection urged against the preferential ballot, would be more than outweighed by the benefits that would result from its adoption in municipal primaries. Counting and tabulating the vote, under this plan, would have to be done with considerable care and the process probably would be tedious, but it would not be difficult, if entrusted to competent men.

And, after all, no mechanical difficulty should be permitted to stand in the way of a modern and progressive method of determining the will of the people.

If you are thinking of buying an airship, better get in your bid. The price is going up.

Making Over Men

IT is a fine work the French government is doing—making over men. In operating-rooms and hospitals, surgeons and nurses do all that is possible for maimed and mutilated bodies. Then, after medical science has done its part, another science takes hold of what is left and turns it to account. At St. Maurice men whose legs are gone are taught work that requires only the use of the hands; men whose arms are missing learn what they can do with their minds.

From the purely utilitarian point of view, it is a demonstration of a nation's efficiency, methods of utilizing what otherwise would be wasted, of salvage, in a word, in its more humanitarian aspect, it is a building up of wrecked bodies, a strengthening of the spirit, an imparting of the will to live, to serve and to be useful, in minds and hearts that knew and felt no hope. It is just that—making men over.

Is Queen Sophia a hyphen or a minus? Anyway, she is always found between Constantine and her big brother.

Mrs. Galt's Gowns

ENGLISHMEN never possessed a sense of humor so that a joke is no less a puzzle to them in peace times than in these strenuous days of war. But the Gaul has always been accredited with a keen, if delicate, perception of the ridiculous, and the news that the French have lost their sense of humor will be received with sorrow throughout the world. But alas! this seems to be the case.

Mrs. Norman Galt, the first lady of the land to be recently ordered some French gowns through an American business firm which includes a person named Kurzman, who, it appears, was at some time or other in his life a German. The patriotic Paris Dressmakers' Syndicate, learning the fact of Kurzman's origin, has refused to fill the order, though it politely offers to present the gowns to Mrs. Galt directly. It is not likely, however, that Mrs. Galt will accept this chivalrous offer, and thus it is possible that the presidential bride may go lacking French dresses, which is a terrible deprivation for an American woman. But what does the Paris dressmaker care? Under no circumstances may the beautiful creations of his art go through the hands of the hated Teuton, even though the Teuton happens to be a very ex-Teuton living in little old New York.

Winston Churchill quit the British Cabinet because he thought, probably, conditions on the western front were not as hot as they are in official life in London.

The Tobacco Protest

TOBACCO is not contraband of war, and cannot be made contraband except by a violent perversion of usage. The shipping of the dark tobacco produced in Virginia and reloaded in Central Europe has no effect and can have no effect on the course of the war; it does have a marked effect on the prosperity of this State. There seems every reason, therefore, for a plainly worded protest from the tobacco growers of Virginia to our government against British interference with tobacco shipments to Germany and Austria.

The sympathy of the majority of Americans has been with England in the present struggle. England has not repaid American good wishes any too generously. She has

SEEN ON THE SIDE

A New Charm.
They're sidling up to China, to China, to China.
They're sidling up to China, now in the Orient.
The warring clans assign her, assign her, assign her.
The warring clans assign her each day a compliment.
They cannot do without her, without her, without her.
They cannot do without her, or so the statesmen say.
And yet they just must doubt her, must doubt her, must doubt her.
And yet they just must doubt her, or they'd not act this way.

Just think of poor old China, old China, old China.
Just think of poor old China, enjoying all this fuss!
Last year none cared a shiner, a shiner, a shiner.
Last year none cared a shiner what China might have done.

Yes, times have changed completely, completely, completely.
Yes, times have changed completely within the year just past.
And diplomats now neatly—yes, neatly, quite neatly—
And diplomats now neatly woo lands we thought were dead.

The Guide and P. Henry.

The guide of Capitol Square was sitting on the steps of the Washington group when Newcomer stopped before him. "Who is your favorite in this group?" asked Newcomer.
"Of all them figures that stand at the hoofs of G. W.'s horse," replied the guide, "I take it, Henry. He gets my hat all the time. I also take off my coat and galluses to him. The better things got for him he sed, Give me liberty or give me death. That's what I hanker for, but wife sez death order to come fast, providin' she could name the corpse. I never see a woman who pined to be a widder ez wife does. But, as Daniel Webster sed when they wuz waitin' to take his measure, 'I ain't dead yet!'"

Easy Enough.

"Can you tell me how to get to the nearest hospital?" asked the nice old lady.
"Certainly," replied the accommodating citizen. "Just walk out into the street and call for a hinky. One will qualify you for admission to the hospital and another will take you there."

The Pessimist Says:

Some men are natural-born pessimists. For example, there is the unmitigated idiot who thinks he knows how to cure a cold in the head.

A Layman's Sermon.

Pity the man who is in a town where he has no friends. No matter how good a fellow he was where he came from, when he finds himself where he realizes that he is alone, that feeling will take him. The recollections of home follow a man all over the world. They will go with him when he is alone, in spite of himself. I am talking about the man with a conscience. I can't keep from going back in his mind. Some time he will return, although the journey may be long, and when he gets back the experience he had when away will lift him up and keep him in the right way all the days of his life. There is no sadder hour in the life of any of us than that in which we break the home ties, and there is no happier moment than that which comes to him when he knows he is on the road back home. The moral of this simple little sermon is that a man should hesitate when the time comes in which he thinks of going away from his friends. If we would ponder this oftener, there would be fewer wanderers on the face of the earth.

Rather Simple.

"I see by the papers," said the reader voter, "that Victor Mordock wants to know whether the Progressive party will be allowed to live."
"That ought not to make his head ache," replied the practical patriot. "It seems to me the last election answered that question—in the negative and for all time."

Tattlings.

A rooster can crow as long as he has a feather, but a turkey gets it in the neck when it has grown fat, and is then gobbled down.

When a man settles down he has to settle up. When a man embarks on the sea of matrimony he is apt to get seasick, and sooner or later he gets half seas over.

There are women who hate men because men's clothes stay on without being pinned.
There are women who like to appear distant in their manner because they think that distance lends enchantment.

A man thinks that if he could live his life over he would make fewer mistakes. On the other hand, he would only enable him to make his mistakes the more easily.

Just One Way.

Grabbs—Blacks says he has made up his mind he will endure no longer the tyranny of his better half. He is going to end it.

Stubbins—Is he, indeed? What day has he fixed for his funeral?

Danger.

Do not disturb saint William Galt. While he devours last winter's coat. Though William loves to ruminate. He has been known to elevate.

The man who wise discretion scorns And gets in touch with William's horns.

Chats With Virginia Editors

"While waiting for a dead man's shoes," says the Clifton Forge Review, "you could probably earn a better pay." But it is so restful to wait and so soothing to anticipate.

It is singular, having tried so many other devices, that no American has suggested to any of the involved nations the use of the steam roller that has been so effective at political conventions in the United States.—Times-Dispatch.
No Americans that we can recall can afford to loan their out. Certainly the one in Virginia can't be had at any price. It's being greased and patched up now for the coming gubernatorial election.—Urbana Sentinel.

"The scientists" says the Franklin Chronicle, "have found a sure cure for pellagra, but what's the use? The specialists will immediately invent another incurable disease, equally as prolific a source of revenue, to inflict humanity and separate them from their coin." That's what the scientists are here for.

"Hopewell Prisoners Saw Way Out of Jail," is the headline of a news item in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. And after they saw their way out they sawed their way out and escaped. What a funny language we Americans speak!—Newport News Press.

"One encouraging feature of the existing situation," says the Staunton News, "is that Colonel Bryan and Colonel Roosevelt, both of

whom were members of the Volunteer Army of 1898, are paired on the question of national defense. This leaves the adjudication of the issue to the remainder of the country. Which means that the issue will be adjudicated right."

If the Republicans win the presidency next year, the present editor of the Courier does not expect to live long enough to see another Democrat in that high office.—Clarke Courier. Who said the Republicans are going to win the presidency next year?—Times-Dispatch. Oh, he just meant it was so impossible he was wagging his neck on the result. Eh?—Irvington Citizen.

Discussing the announcement that Congressman Kitchin's position on the preparedness proposition has not made him one persona grata at the White House, the Roanoke World-News eloquently observes: "The privilege of independent opinion and opportunity to express it is the bulwark and the surest foundation of this nation. When such a privilege is destroyed, we may convert the White House into a palace station an army around it, obliterate the freedom of the press, annual free speech and translate our presidency into a hereditary monarchy." And that would be going it some.

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From Newspaper Files, November 23, 1865.)

The Farmers' National Bank has established with its other business a savings bank department, which is the first to be put in operation in Virginia since the war closed.

Mrs. Hannah Kirby, wife of Robert F. Kirby, a well-known fish and oyster dealer who operated in the Second Market House, yesterday morning shot her husband at his stall, killing him almost instantly. The tragedy caused great excitement about the market. The coroner's jury returned a verdict characterizing the deed as willful and premeditated murder. Jealousy was the cause. Mrs. Kirby was remanded to jail.

A Washington letter in the New York Herald says General Robert E. Lee is reported to have applied to the War Department a few days ago for permission to keep a few pieces of artillery, now at Lexington, but belonging to the United States government, for the purpose of instructing young men in the military service. At once an officer was detailed from Richmond to take possession of the ordnance and remove it from Lexington.

A number of German laborers have arrived in King George County, where, under the direction of Dr. Stillwell, formerly of New York, they are cultivating the existing Marmion estate, now owned by Fielding Lewis.

The banking house of Hart & Hayes, of Fredericksburg, was entered night before last by burglars and robbed of a large amount of gold and silver.

The editor of the Warrenton Sentinel was summarily ordered to report to the provost marshal and take the oath of allegiance to the United States and afterwards ordered by the provost marshal to send him files of the paper for examination and search for any disloyal sentiments that may have been expressed in its columns.

While the Shenandoah Circuit Court was in session last week, several horses were taken from citizens attending court by United States soldiers because the animals had U. S. brands on them, and notwithstanding the citizens were able to prove that they bought the horses at government auction sales.

General John B. Gordon has declined to run for the office of Governor of the State of Georgia.

General Logan, who left the United States Army quite poor, has declined the appointment of minister to Mexico, tendered him by President Johnson. He will make his home in Chicago, where he has been made president of the Chicago Railroad Pump Company, and where the citizens propose to give him a home valued at \$25,000.

The New York Times says General Grant favors driving the French from Mexico at the point of the bayonet.

Queries and Answers

Beyond the Alps.
Can you tell me the author of the sentence, "Beyond the Alps lies Italy," and the circumstance of its utterance? R. B. BROWN.

It is commonly attributed on what authority it seems to me to be discovered, to Napoleon. The "circumstances" would probably be some meeting of staff officers in which the hardships of the Alpine campaign was being discussed. It is near of kin to that other form, "There shall be no Alps behind us," which probably ingenious outgrowths of the epigram which Voltaire attributes to Louis XVI. "There are no longer any Pyrenees."

Dutch Auction.
Please tell me what a Dutch auction is, and why "Dutch." MRS. O. L. F.

Auction is Latin, "to increase," the meaning increasing with each bid. From about 1550 there is English tendency to use the adjective "Dutch" in the sense of "quaggy," "unusual," etc., and there is "Dutch courage," "Dutch uncle," etc.; hence, in England, an auction in which the seller surrenders to the bidder and comes down by degrees till he finds a buyer, being exactly contrary to the usual thing, is called "Dutch."

English Sparrows.
Please state when the English sparrow was introduced into this country. J. J. P.

An unsuccessful attempt was made in 1850. A committee of the Brooklyn Institute in 1852 expended some \$200 for birds, but they died at spring at the Narrows and in Greenwood Cemetery. This attempt was a great and woeful success.

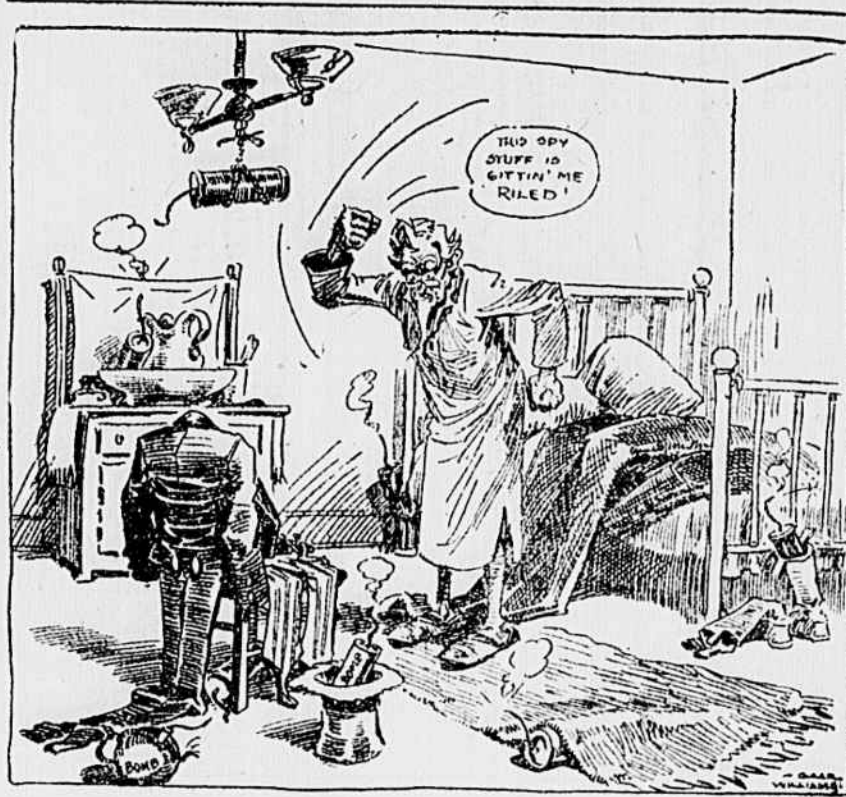
Curren: Editorial Comment

The most unfortunate feature of the Chicago case of the infant that was "allowed to die" was the publicity. No doubt the feeling of the mothers of citizens over the country were lowered by the news that nature was to be permitted to take its course. If the hospital where the defective child was had exercised proper secrecy, the case would have been a matter of record, and the public would have been spared the spectacle of a child who had been born with a fatal defect, and who had been allowed to die, and who had been buried in a pauper's grave.

One outcome of the war, Lord Great Wrong Roschey reminds us, will be that in the future the world cannot be ruled by the sword. The signature of Germany, he declares, will be of little value within any measurable time that can be contemplated, and the same general rule is applicable to other nations, because no country will feel itself safe which has obtained peace on anything but some material guarantee of its own. This is one of the most discouraging facts that we must face in the future. The action of Germany in tearing up the Belgian treaty was one of the worst blows that international law and honor have received in all the past. The nations had been striving toward peaceful agreements. The Hague conferences had awakened new hopes for the peace of the race. The horrors of war had been tentatively lessened. And then Germany, for the sake of a doubtful advantage, reduced the Belgian agreement to a scrap of paper, and so substituted might for right in international affairs. How shall this vast wrong be remedied? That is a question, to which mankind is now turning its eyes. The first necessary step, of course, is the defeat of the power which holds so lightly its written word.—Providence Journal.

Enough Is Enough

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Indianapolis News.

MARVELS OF THE UNIVERSE

By Garrett P. Serviss.

BY GARRETT P. SERVISS.

(1) "A" says that the nearest star to the earth is larger than the sun, "B" holding that the sun is the larger.
(2) "A" says that the sun is an incandescent body of gas, which is formed of several layers on the outside, and a seething, white-hot "core."
(3) "A" says that it is of the same composition as the earth, this is water, and not gas, and that the earth was once a part of the sun, having been thrown off in the course of an eruption.

(4) "A" says that there are several stars as much as 1,000 times as far away from the earth as the sun, and that some of them are as much as 1,000 times as large as the sun. "B" takes exception to this.
We would feel greatly indebted if you would settle this, at the same time increasing our knowledge on the subject. W. P. M.

(1) The nearest star to the earth is, as far as is known at present, Alpha Centauri, in the southern hemisphere. It is a double star, consisting of two suns, each about as massive as our sun and slightly brighter, revolving around each other in a period somewhat more than eighty years, at a mean distance apart of about 1,000,000,000 miles.

But the orbit is so eccentric that at one point in the revolution the two stars are not farther apart than the distance between Jupiter and our sun, while at the opposite point they are nearly as far apart as the distance of Uranus from the sun. Thus the two stars in Alpha Centauri rush around their common center of gravity, now sweeping nearer to each other and now farther apart, all their revolutions being performed within a period much smaller than that of the solar system.

Sun a Globe of Incandescent Gas.
(2) According to all the evidence we have, the sun is a globe of incandescent gas much hotter within than at the surface. It appears to be enclosed in a shell of partially cooled gas and vapors, whose temperature, however, still remains too high to permit their condensation into the liquid or solid state.

The spectroscopic shows that all the principal substances known on the earth exist, in an incandescent state, in the sun. This is particularly true in the case of hydrogen, helium, and iron. In fact, there is abundant evidence in the form of clouds of hot vapor. Probably every chemical element exists in the sun, but only about half of them have been as yet recognized by the spectroscopic.

As to the earth having once been a part of the sun, that is probably true, but the evidence is not so clear as is taken place at a time when the sun was enormously greater in bulk (though not in mass, or quantity of matter) than at present. According

to the nebular hypothesis of Laplace, the entire solar system was produced by the gradual contraction of a rotating nebula which, spinning faster and faster as it contracted, lent a series of nebulous rings, which afterward broke up and condensed into the earth and the other planets.

Solar System Result of Collision.
But not much more than one-thousandth of the original mass was formed into planets, all the rest contracting into a central globe to make the sun. According to the more recent, but less generally correct planetesimal hypothesis, the solar system was formed as the final result of a collision of two or more immense masses, but, under either supposition, the constitution of the sun is regarded as casuous.

(3) "A's" estimate of the distance of the stars is vastly below the truth. There is no star anywhere near so close to us as only 1,000 times distance of the sun. The nearest star in the sky, Alpha Centauri, is 270,000 times as far away as the sun, and the great majority of the stars are several million times more distant than the sun. As for size, some of the stars are even more than a thousand times more luminous than the sun, and in some cases the size, or bulk, of these bright stars may exceed that of the sun in an even greater ratio than their luminosity. This arises from their smaller relative density. A few stars, such as Canopus and Rigel, are believed, on good grounds, to be at least 10,000 and possibly 25,000 times greater than the sun as light-givers.

At the same time, there are many stars which are smaller than the sun, or, at least, less luminous. Some are ten times less than the sun. This may be due either to their smaller size, or to the inferior brilliancy of their surface, as compared, area for area, with that of the sun.

Universe Made Up of Suns.
Upon the whole, it appears that the universe is made up of suns having a wide range of actual magnitude. Many are giants, and many others are dwarfs, our sun falling into a rank somewhere near the mean. The hypothesis roughly to correspond with the relative size of the planets composing the solar system.

Jupiter, for instance, is 1,300 times larger than the earth, while the earth, in turn, is 4,000 times larger than the minor planet Ceres. Ceres, in fact, is eighty times smaller than the moon, so that if it were a satellite of the earth it would appear as a mere baby moon.

If we suppose the great star Canopus to be 10,000 times larger than the sun (corresponding with its relative luminosity), then the inferiority in size of Jupiter to the sun is ten times less than that of the sun to Canopus, for Jupiter is only about 1,000 times smaller than the sun.

Ice Skating Revival.
This winter promises to witness a full-fledged revival of ice skating. Of course, the sport has always had its devotees who followed it through thick and thin, but the revival has been in Northern New England and Canada, where the winter is long enough and severe enough to assure good skating for several successive weeks. But there has been a decline in skating the last few years in States farther south.

The dance craze has had something to do with it, but the want of ice is the main reason advanced. Some of the larger New York hotels are setting out to demand for ice skating by converting dance halls into ice rinks. The rinks which have been maintained for some years independently of the hotels are being enlarged, and following the appearance of skating clubs in musical shows, the stores are selling skating costumes. Instructors report an interest in the sport which has not been equaled in the last twenty years. In fact, the revival of the sport is being hastened by various reasons. Some contend that it naturally follows the dance craze, while others say that it was destined to attract the attention of those who are always seeking something new. As a winter sport it has few rivals. It calls for a combination of accomplishments, and a great deal of practice is required in order to attain proficiency. New figures are being devised to combine the gracefulness acquired in dancing with the exhilaration due to the speed which is one of the strongest attractions in skating. Old skaters who found much added pleasure in the fact that skating was an outdoor pleasure may deplore the building of so many rinks, but there will be no doubt a revival of the sport outdoors as well as indoors. At any rate, it is one of the most healthful forms of sport.

Letters to the Editor.
Most newspapers wish to publish the letters they receive. There is never room for them all, of course. But those which fail to get in print are usually rejected for one or more reasons.

They are anonymous.
They are illegible.
They are too long.
They are on subjects of no interest to the public.
They are libellous.
They would cause needless pain to worthy persons.
They are written in ill temper.
They are absurd.—Albany Knickerbocker Press.

Preserving Penel Drawing.
A pencil drawing can be preserved indefinitely against blurring if it is immersed in a bath of cold, cold water, and fresh milk.—Popular Science Monthly.

Love's Music.
Love's music is not set in simple keys of ringing catches and light melodies, but rises in deeper, mightier chords than these.

Through marvelous symphonies it ebbs and flows.
In choral storms, with martial power it blows.
And chants in solemn oratorios.
Like hymns of victory are its pure chords blown.
Or like a bugle's notes that rise alone And call, beyond man's thought, to Death's far zone.
Its strength is more mysterious than the tides,
As, unresisted, through the soul it rides,
Until in Memory's quiet haven it bides.
—Meredith Nicholson.